

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

---:---

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 13, 1977

10:00 o'clock a.m.

MARC DUPUY, JR.,
Presiding.

Ramada Inn
Monroe, Louisiana



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Friday, May 13, 1977, at the Ramada Inn, Monroe, Louisiana, Marc Dupuy, Jr., Presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

. MARC DUPUY, JR.
J. C. GILBERT
· JEAN LAPEYRE
, HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of April 26, 1977. (6)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request for permit beginning June 15, 1977, (7)

for a period of one year by CENTRAL
STATES DREDGING COMPANY to dredge for
sand and gravel in the Mississippi River
at the following locations:

- (1) Left bank opposite Morganza Revet from
River Mile 273 to Mile 280 AHP;
(2) Along both sides of middle bar known as



St. Maurice Towhead from River Mile
270.3 AHP to Mile 273.1 AHP;

(3) Along both sides of middle bar known
as Fancy Point Towhead from River Mile
256.2 to River Mile 258.6 AHP;

(4) Along left bank opposite Red Stone
Landing Revet from River Mile 266 to
River Mile 269.5 AHP.

(3) Request for renewal of permit by H & H CON- (10)
TRACTING COMPANY, INC. to dredge for
fill material in the Red River in the
vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City,
Bossier Parish, Louisiana, from July 1,
1977.

(4) Request for permit from BECK STEIN SERVICES, (11)
INC. to dredge for material from the
Mississippi River at Mile 157.6.

(5) Request for permit from A. E. GRAVOIS AND (12)
SONS, INC. to dredge for sand from the
Mississippi River at or near L. S. 726+00
(Brilliant Point) St. James Parish,
Louisiana in the amount of approximately
100,000 cubic yards annually.



MR. RICHARD YANCEY

6. Regulations for mineral development on State Wildlife Refuge. (14)

MR. KENNETH SMITH

7. Consideration of low bid for the construction of a boat ramp at Crawford Landing on Pearl River. (27)

MR. JOE HERRING

8. Ratify rules and regulations of nature trails on wildlife management areas. (31)

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Discussion of pending fish and wildlife legislation. (35, 43)
10. Board Meeting dates: June 20-21, New Orleans; July 11-12, Morgan City. (42)

NOTE:

The following items not on the printed agenda were also considered:

Recognition of guests. (5)

Discussion of House Bill 753. (25)

Lake Bistineau:

Resolution of Webster Parish Police (45)

Jury re illegal netting.



Discussion of enforcement and drawdown. (67)
Louisiana fur tax. (51)
Timber cutting on Russell Sage WMA. (58)
Contributions to Ducks Unlimited. (72)
Recess. (76)

---:---

NOTE: Commission Member Donald F. Wille arrived
near end of meeting (see p. 60.)



CHAIRMAN MARC DUPUY, JR.: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We would like to welcome you to the regular meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This is our May meeting, official meeting for the month, and following this business meeting that we are going to have, we will adjourn for a few minutes and then conduct hearings for listening to recommendations from sportsmen and sportsmen's organizations for the fixing of seasons and bag limits.

At this time I would like to introduce the Commission members. On my far right, Mr. Harvey Clay Luttrell from Buckeye; Mr. J. C. Gilbert, as you all know, former Senator and former Representative and member from this area; Mr. Jean Lapeyre from New Orleans, on my left, New Orleans and Houma; and I am Marc Dupuy, Jr., from Marks-ville.

I would like at this time to recognize some of the folks that are in the room here who have been lifelong conservationists. Particularly it gives me pleasure to recognize Mr. Hobson Norris, former member of the Commission. Is Mr. Norris



still with us? He was here a few minutes ago. If he comes back again in the morning, we will recognize him again.

I would like also to recognize Mr. Kirkikis, Webster Parish Police Jury member, and Mr. Toss McDonald, a former chairman of the Lake Bistineau Commission. Henry Bernard, who is president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. And two retired and former members of this Commission's staff, Mr. Horace Stiles, retired management area supervisor, and Mr. Frank Swazey, retired enforcement agent from this area.

And, of course, we would like to recognize the press. I don't know all the members of the press. I see some that I do recognize but not all of them. I won't make the mistake of recognizing one but not all.

Gentlemen, at this time we will go into the agenda for today's meeting, and we would like to entertain a motion for the approval of the minutes.

MR. GILBERT: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Luttrell, approval of the minutes of April 26. Is there any discussion, amendments?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Harry Schafer for Dr. Lyle St. Amant.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, the first thing on the agenda is a request for a permit beginning June 15 for Central States Dredging Company for four areas in the Mississippi River. The first one, on the left bank opposite the Morganza Revet from River Mile 273 to Mile 280 AHP. The second one is along both sides of the middle bar known as St. Maurice Towhead from River Mile 270.3 to 273.1 AHP. The third area is along both sides of the middle bar known as Fancy Point Towhead, from River Mile 256.2 to Mile 258.6 AHP. The fourth one, along the left bank opposite Red Stone Revet from River Mile 266 to Mile 269.5 AHP.

They had originally requested this permit in 1976 but they could not get a permit from the Corps of Engineers. They now have this and



they are requesting this permit, to become effective June 15, 1977. We have checked this out with Peter Duffy and he advises that everything would be in order to do this, and we have checked out everything else on it. It meets all the requirements of the Commission and I would recommend that this permit be granted. This is for one year and for the going price of sand and gravel.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is five cents and one year?

MR. SCHAFER: Well, sand and gravel I think is ten cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made



a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
of Louisiana does hereby grant permis-
sion to CENTRAL STATES DREDGING COMPANY
to dredge for sand and gravel in the
Mississippi River in the following
locations:

- (1) Left bank opposite Morganza Revet
from River Mile 273 to Mile 280
AHP;
- (2) Along both sides of middle bar
known as St. Maurice Towhead from
River Mile 270.3 AHP to Mile
273.1 AHP;
- (3) Along both sides of middle bar
known as Fancy Point Towhead
from River Mile 256.2 to River
Mile 258.6 AHP;
- (4) Along left bank opposite Red
Stone Landing Revet from River
Mile 266.0 AHP to River Mile
269.5 AHP;



for a period of one year from June 15,
1977 to June 15, 1978.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, the second one is a request for renewal of a permit by H & H Contracting Company to dredge fill material in Red River in the vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City. We have checked all the requirements and the past performance of this company, and we would recommend its approval for a renewal for the one year and for five cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation of Mr. Schafer.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Any discussion?

(No response)

If not, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and



Fisheries does hereby grant permission to H & H CONTRACTING COMPANY, INC. for renewal of their permit to dredge for fill material in the Red River in the vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1978, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

MR. SCHAFER: The third item is a request for fill material permit from the Mississippi River at Mile 157.6 AHP by BECK STEIN SERVICES, INC. We have checked the application and they meet all the requirements of the Commission. I would recommend approval of this permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is fill material also?

MR. SCHAFER: Fill material, right, one year at five cents.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Is there any



discussion?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries does hereby grant permission
to BECK STEIN SERVICES, INC. for
removal of fill material from the
Mississippi River at Mile 157.6 AHP
for a period of one year from May 13,
1977 to May 13, 1978, at a royalty
rate of five cents per cubic yard.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, the last one
we have is a request for a permit from A. E.
Gravois and Sons, Inc., to dredge sand from the
Mississippi River at Brilliant Point in St. James
Parish. They expect to dredge about 100,000 cubic
yards a year. We have checked into the company
and it meets all the requirements of the Commis-
sion and I would recommend the approval of issuance



of this permit.

MR. LAPEYRE: This is for one year?

MR. SCHAFER: All of them are one year,
five cents.

MR. LAPEYRE: The word "annually" seemed
to imply something else, but it is a one-year permit.

MR. SCHAFER: They expect to get renewals
on it.

MR. LAPEYRE: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have heard
the recommendations of Mr. Schafer. Do we have a
motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell,
seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Any discussion? Any
opposition?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby grant permission to A. E. GRAVOIS AND SONS, INC. to dredge for sand from the Mississippi River at or near L. S. 726+00 (Brilliant Point) St. James Parish, Louisiana, in the amount of approximately 100,000 cubic yards, for a period of one year from May 13, 1977, to May 13, 1978, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

MR. SCHAFER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Harry. Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, this item on the agenda pertains to the future mineral operations on the State Wildlife Refuge down in Vermilion Parish. This particular refuge is a 15,000-acre tract of natural untouched marsh, one of the last marshland tracts in this condition on the whole Louisiana coast. It was deeded to the Commission back in 1910 to be dedicated in perpetuity as a wildlife



sanctuary.

That refuge normally winters 60- to 80,000 blue geese and 20- to 30,000 ducks. Seismograph operations have been completed on the refuge and it is anticipated that mineral operations will begin at some time in the near future, exactly when we can't say. We feel that the Commission should adopt rules and regulations that would be made a part of any advertisement for bids and any lease that may be issued on the refuge. It would protect the refuge from any damages and assure the fact that the operations would be conducted in accordance with the deed of donation.

I think that all members of the Commission have a copy of these rules and regulations except Mr. Lapeyre. Generally speaking, these rules will protect the refuge against damage from any pollution, and they provide that access to drilling sites will be reached by marine operations in Lake Fearman, Lake Portage and if any drilling sites have to be reached across the marsh, they will be reached by road. The dredging of canals across the marsh will be prohibited under



these rules and regulations, and the reason for this, based on past experience, we have found that canals through these marshland areas tend to drain fresh water from the marshes and bring in salt water during the late summer and fall months, and they tend to result in changes in vegetative types. Furthermore, they tend to result in heavy erosion along the canal banks from marine equipment.

We have had some experiences along this line in the past, and so this is the proposal.

MR. LAPEYRE: Is this an absolute prohibition?

MR. YANCEY: Through the marsh, yes. We have this in the rules and regulations. The rules would call for the drilling sites to be reached by roads which would be constructed from staggered borrow pits from the nearest water area. This is a procedure that has been used successfully on Marsh Island and we would propose that similar rules be applied to this particular refuge.

It is recommended that the Commission adopt and approve these rules and regulations, which would be made a part of any lease that may



be issued.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, for the record, yesterday in discussing this in a sort of preliminary fashion, made mention of the fact that the physical topography of the area of State Wildlife Refuge is such that roads are feasible in certain areas and canals are detrimental to the environment, and that is the reason why in Section VI you have recommended the use of roads wherever possible.

MR. YANCEY: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: We wanted to point that out because there have been some problems in the marsh in the past.

MR. YANCEY: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation that we adopt these rules and regulations for State Wildlife Refuge. Would this be general for all wildlife refuges?

MR. YANCEY: This will apply only to State Wildlife Refuge, and copies of these rules would be provided to the Department of Natural Resources Mineral Board.

MR. LUTTRELL: Dick, I studied this very



closely last night, and it seemed to me like a majority of these rules could be used on almost any refuge.

MR. YANCEY: Well, these are patterned to a great extent after those that have been used in the past on Rockefeller and Marsh Island.

MR. LUTTRELL: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that these are good rules. I would move the adoption.

MR. GILBERT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Gilbert. Is there any further discussion, gentlemen? Any opposition?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the rules and regulations as adopted above is here made a part of the record.)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MINERAL
OPERATIONS - STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE



I. No oil, oily fluids, drilling muds, oil field brine or other pollutants shall be permitted to be discharged into any canals or marshes from any installation, barge, watercraft or other fixtures. Any discharge of such fluids shall be directed into disposal wells unless otherwise permitted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources.

II. Tank batteries shall be constructed on all lands to conform with rules and regulations of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries particularly with reference to construction and maintenance of leveed fire walls. Inspection reports on the condition of pipes and pipe line carriers shall be prepared and submitted to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Department of



Natural Resources twice annually.

All pipelines must be buried at least three feet deep in push ditches that must be back filled upon installation.

III. All rules and regulations of the Louisiana Stream Control Commission shall be strictly observed by the Lessee.

IV. Flares may be burned only during daylight hours unless shown to be absolutely necessary at night. All flares shall be burned into a pit. Flares will be burned only with the permission of the Department of Natural Resources and under the supervision of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources.

V. Any damages incurred by Lessee, by his operations, to levees, water control structures, bulkheads and other facilities owned and operated by the Louisiana Department of



Wildlife and Fisheries shall be restored to original condition by Lessee.

VI. Access to or on the leased premises for drilling and production operations shall be by marine equipment in Lake Fearman, Portage Lake and Bayou Fearman and elsewhere on the Refuge by road. The dredging of canals through the marshes is prohibited. Access construction plans will be approved by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in advance of beginning operations.

VII. All road beds shall be constructed from staggered borrow pits. These shall be evenly alternated on each side of the road bed and each individual pit shall not exceed 300 feet in length and 40 feet in width. A minimum of 15 feet of berm shall be maintained between the road bed and edge of borrow pit. Drainage and



control will be provided for by means of asbestos bonded culverts with drop gates under all road beds unless otherwise directed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources. Navigable canals and waterways shall not be blocked on the refuge. All road and canal construction plans must first be approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources before construction begins.

VIII. In order to prevent excessive access construction in the preserve, Lessee agrees that if the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources determine that an access route shall be used by a third party lessee then said route shall be used jointly upon the payment of a fair and



proportionate share of the cost and maintenance by the third party lessee.

- IX. Should lessee commit any act which shall be complained of as a violation of the Act of Donation for the State Wildlife Refuge or its transferee or assignee, said lessee shall immediately correct said violation upon being notified.
- X. Bank erosion control shall be provided for in using any existing canals. No existing canals shall be used without prior approval of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- XI. No telephone, telegraph or powerlines shall be constructed above marsh level without prior approval of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources. All development sites will be kept clean and free of debris or litter. Abandoned well



sites will be restored to original condition.

XII. Lessee shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Department of Natural Resources for the protection of game and wildlife, and particularly no hunting, fishing or any other activity harmful to wildlife shall be permitted on any part of the leased land or any other part of the refuge.

XIII. All requirements and conditions contained in the Deed by which the same game preserve area was donated to the State of Louisiana shall be fully and strictly complied with.

XIV. Unless approval is first obtained from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, no tank batteries, rigging or other permanent structure shall be installed within 2,000 feet of the



Main Headquarters or within a distance that may prove damaging to any of the wood, concrete or steel water control structures on the area.

XV. The willful or continued violation of any of the aforesaid regulations shall constitute cause for revocation of the lease.

XVI. All developments not otherwise specified above shall be subject to approval of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, did you want to make mention of House Bill 753 with regard to the Department of Natural Resources and the proposed bill affecting the possible leasing of state lands?

MR. YANCEY: Well, we haven't had an opportunity to have our attorney study House Bill 753 yet. There is some concern that if it is adopted perhaps the Commission would not be consulted in connection with mineral operations on



its refuges, and certainly this could have a disastrous effect on these refuges, so we have got to check the bill out and make sure, through an amendment or whatever is necessary, that the Commission will always be consulted in connection with mineral operations on these refuges.

Uncontrolled operations can result in very severe damages to the wildlife habitat on these areas, but if the operations are controlled by rules and regulations such as these, then damages are minimized and sometimes held at a very minimum level.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will do whatever is necessary, ladies and gentlemen, with regard to the protection of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and our Director, Mr. Burton Angelle, is in Baton Rouge in the legislature today, working for the protection of our interests.

MR. LUTTRELL: Dick, I was thinking about this bill. There is no provision in it -- I have not seen the bill -- where the Commission itself would have veto power?



MR. YANCEY: It doesn't indicate this to us. However, as I said, we have still got to analyze the bill to determine just what it provides.

MR. LUTTRELL: I definitely think when you people and your attorneys are considering this thing, if that is not taken care of, the bill possibly could be amended, because I can see where we would be working at cross purposes. The granting of leases without the knowledge of the Board could destroy so many of your programs. It could destroy the entire refuge.

MR. YANCEY: Well, past mineral operations have been supervised jointly by the Mineral Board and the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and as a whole this has worked out very successfully, and our interest is to make sure that we continue in the future in working jointly rather than separately perhaps by one department there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dick. Kenneth Smith.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the Louisiana Department of Public Works has prepared some plans for a boat



ramp on the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area in southeast Louisiana, what they call Crawford Landing, and they estimated the cost of this job to be approximately \$63,000. We recently opened bids, last Wednesday it was, and the low bid on this job was \$82,000.

Talking to the Public Works people, they feel that this is too high, and so what I would like to recommend to the Commission is that in view of their comments that the Director be authorized to have these bids readvertised and see if we can't save some more money on this ramp. We don't even have that much money available, even if we wanted to, to build the facility.

This would be my recommendation in this matter.

MR. LAPEYRE: How many bids did you receive?

MR. SMITH: There were only two bids received. We think there are more people, if it is readvertised, who will hear about it and we will get more bids and probably a better price on it.



THE CHAIRMAN: You recommend that the Director has the discretion of readvertising it?

MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Readvertisement is recommended by the Department of Public Works?

MR. SMITH: Right, and I will bring the bid tabulation before the Commission for their consideration at the next Commission meeting. We can still get the project under bid I believe by the end of the fiscal year.

MR. LAPEYRE: As I understand it, Kenneth, there is no way we can accept the low bid in this case because the money is not available in that amount, is that right?

MR. SMITH: It is so high and the engineers are close to this thing and there are certain items in the bid proposal that were just entirely out of line. We usually go with their recommendations, whatever they suggest on these bid proposals. It has been the safe thing to do.

MR. LUTTRELL: Kenneth, I certainly don't believe that we can do any worse on a new bid so I would recommend that our Director be given



that power.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre, that Director Angelle have the discretion to ask the Department of Public Works for readvertisement -- or is it readvertisement by our Department?

MR. SMITH: No, by the Department of Public Works. We will request public works. They have the advertising machinery there and they go ahead and do this and open bids for us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Is there any discussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

So ordered. Thank you very much.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Works, DOTD, has prepared plans, specifications and estimates for a boat launching ramp to be constructed on the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area at



Crawford's Landing, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works estimate for this facility is \$63,020, and

WHEREAS, the lowest of two bids received by Public Works was \$82,441,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Director, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, is hereby authorized to have Public Works to rebid this project in order to obtain a better price.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., Mr. Joe Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing we have for the meeting is ratification of rules and regulations pertaining to nature trails on our wildlife management areas.

Last month we did approve some rules and regulations pertaining to the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. When these were advertised in the State Register, they included all wildlife management areas. This is good, we have no



objection, so what we would ask for is ratification of this so if we do establish nature trails on any of the wildlife management areas in the state now other than the Pearl River, these same rules and regulations that we had adopted, how to take care of the nature trail and how to act on it, and different things, these would be included in the others, should we establish them.

We are just asking the Commission to ratify the rules and regulations that we had on Pearl River and include all wildlife management areas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very good.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. GILBERT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Gilbert. Any further discussion.

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)



WHEREAS, at the last regular meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission a set of rules and regulations pertaining to Nature Trails on Wildlife Management Areas was approved, and

WHEREAS, these rules and regulations are in need for present and future nature trails,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that these rules and regulations for nature trails be ratified and adopted for all Wildlife Management Areas in Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe, before you leave, how will we publish these rules and regulations so that the general public will know them?

MR. HERRING: At the present time we are publishing them just pertaining to the Pearl River nature trail. We are in the process of printing a brochure or book, giving the details of the nature trail, different plants that are found on it, different stops on it, and a map of the trail will be



in the publication that we are putting out. Should we do this on any others, we will probably do the same thing. These will be distributed through the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in our regular procedure of distribution through our education section when they are presenting programs, and then news releases to let people know what we have there.

We were getting heavy usage -- I say heavy -- good usage out of the Pearl River until we had the floods in southeast Louisiana, and that area did kind of go under water but it is out now and we will probably get a good use out of it again there. We have had just whole classrooms to come out in school buses and utilize this area, and so we feel like if we do it in the others, we will get the same usage out of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are we making much progress in making that type of information booklet available on other management areas?

MR. HERRING: Well, we have to get in and establish them before we do it on other wildlife management areas, but certainly we would, yes, sir.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, on the matter of other business, we heard a discussion yesterday with regard to the pending Wildlife and Fisheries matters of interest that are pending in the legislature, legislation. One thing that I would like to make mention to all of you present is that Senate Bill 17 is in the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature which provides for a universal fishing license. This is something that each and every sportsman in this state will benefit greatly from.

If I might, I would like to call on Dick. Do you mind making some comments on that and what the status of it is, please. What we are calling on you for is support for the universal fishing license.

MR. YANCEY: The present law provides that everyone who fishes and uses artifical tackle, between the ages of 16 and 60, must have a sport fishing license if he is a resident; it costs \$2. There is an exemption in the law that allows those who fish with other types of tackle not to buy a license. The bill just simply deletes that



exemption, which would mean that anybody who fishes in the State between the ages of 16 and 60 would have to have a sport fishing license.

This would produce a revenue of about \$1 million a year which could be pumped into the fish management program in the State. There would be an additional \$900,000 then State revenue from the sale of resident licenses, and there would be an additional \$100,000 in federal funds that would come back to Louisiana through the Dengle-Johnson program.

Right now we are paying this federal excise tax on fishing tackle. The money is going to Washington and a lot of it is not coming back to Louisiana because your Louisiana apportionment is based to a great extent on the number of fishing licenses you sell. Here in Louisiana I think we are the only state in the country that doesn't have a universal license, so consequently a substantial amount of this excise tax money on sporting goods that the Louisiana fisherman is paying is not coming back to the state. This would help insure that an additional \$100,000 would be coming back to



Louisiana.

Right now the Fishery Division budget -- Kenneth Smith, Chief of the Division, is sitting here -- and it runs about \$2.5 million a year, and the revenue produced by the sport fishermen is running only about \$1 million a year now, so the program is not self-sustaining, and this would put the program on a more self-sustaining basis. The program generally involves the operation of three fish hatcheries that are producing fish that stock about 700 ponds per year here in Louisiana. The fish produced in these hatcheries goes into these newly constructed man-made lakes, like Toledo Bend, D'Arbonne, all the lakes that you have in this area. About a million dollars of this money is used to finance the operation of the water hyacinth program, which is essential to keep these lakes from being completely covered by water hyacinths.

The striped bass program is a program that is financed under the Fish Division budget. Also, we get constant complaints about fishing declining in these lakes and crews have to be sent out to conduct fish population samples to determine



what the problems are and what recommendations have to be put into effect to solve those problems.

Basically this is a revenue measure. The funds are needed to conduct and hopefully expand the present fish management program in the state. This Senate Bill 17 came out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee day before yesterday. It was introduced by Senator Edwards Barham from Oak Ridge, who I am sure many of you know. It will probably come up for a Senate floor vote next week. As ex-Senator Gilbert and now a member of our Commission can tell you, the way to get a bill passed up there is to get some grass roots support for it, contact from the people back home into the legislators. That bill has gone down the drain on a number of occasions in the past, even though it has been actively supported by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the Bass Clubs, just about all the organized sportsmen's groups in the State. It has never cleared the hurdles and the reason for it is that it just hasn't had enough contact work from the people back home into the legislators.

As I say, the bill will probably come up



for a Senate floor vote sometime next week.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dick.

Yes, I would like to call on Senator Gilbert for some comments.

MR. GILBERT: Gentlemen, this bill is only a \$2 license fee for fishing, so everybody here should definitely be able to support it. Now Dick Yancey and the other Commission members and Burt Angelle, the Director, can go to Baton Rouge and buttonhole a lot of Senators and a lot of Representatives, but you fellows from home, if you will take the time to telephone your Senator and your Representative, if you can do that, write them a letter, telling them that you would like their support on seeing that this bill is passed. You fellows right here can do more to help in seeing that this bill is passed than anybody else. Most of you, all of you know your Senators and your Representatives. Write them a note. Just write it on a postcard. It is better to go talk to him, but they will listen to you fellows that vote for them and elect them much more than they will listen to me as a friend. You fellows send them down there.



and we feel this is the most important bill for the Wild Life and Fisheries of this state than anything else that will come up during this session.

I urge you to please contact your Senators this coming week, and then after that it will be up for final passage hopefully in the House, so contact your Senator and your Representative and ask them to please support Senate Bill 17, which is the universal fishing license bill. If you do that, it will do a lot of good, I know it will.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Senator. And don't let your Senator or your Representative tell you that the poor people can't afford \$2 one time in the whole year, because that is less than the cost of a six-pack or a few packs of cigarettes or a hundred worms or 50 shiners, you know, and that is one time, one shot, for the whole year.

There is one other bill that we ought to make mention of that you can all help us, House Bill 1091, introduced by Raymond Laborde, my Representative from Marksville. House Bill 1091 would change the present law with regard to running



of prescription on properties that are acquired by the State, prescription on minerals. The present law under the Louisiana Mineral Code provides that whenever a sale is made to the state or an agency of the state and minerals are reserved in that sale, that those minerals are imprescriptible, they are retained by the landowner in perpetuity. The prescription of ten years does not run.

This bill says that regardless of that effect with regard to other agencies, as to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission only that prescription shall run. What that will do is, from an individual standpoint, if each and every one of you wanted to sell to the state and one of the prime moving reasons for your sale is your being able to reserve minerals in perpetuity, this deprives you of that opportunity of reserving your minerals in perpetuity. From another standpoint it deprives each and every one of you as sportsmen from the opportunity of getting future lands in the wildlife management program, because such a bill, if passed, would kill the land acquisition program just as dead as it could be. So, we need your help



on that also.

I won't go over this legislation but there are about 25 bills dealing with the monofilament gill net. There is a bill that will deal with the prohibition of slat traps, and it probably will be a statewide prohibition and then perhaps different parishes may be amended out of it so that in those areas where slat traps are popular, then they may still continue to be permitted.

The next item of business, the fixing of the Board dates for next meetings. We are looking at June 20 and 21 in New Orleans for the June meeting, the regular meeting in June, and the dates of July 11 and 12 in Morgan City for the July meeting. Those are both Mondays and Tuesdays.

Now, with regard to the June 20 and 21 meeting in New Orleans, that will be the meeting at which this Commission sets the hunting regulations and the seasons and bag limits. This is the reason why today, in just a few minutes, we are going to begin the hearing to take your recommendations on the fixing of seasons and bag limits. The various committees of the Commission will take your



recommendations, will transcribe these notes that we will have in the record, and will consider and get together with the professional staff and the committees and make the recommendations by the next meeting of June 20. This is what it is all about. So, by the time the June 20 meeting comes around, we will certainly be in a position to make the proper recommendations.

Dick, are you familiar with House Bill 17, universal fishing license? This gentleman, would you come to the podium, please, and state your name and tell us what you have in mind?

MR. L. B. WILLIAMSON: I am L. B. Williamson from Oak Grove and I just read this in the paper and he didn't comment on it, and I was just wondering. In the paper it stated on House Bill 17 on this universal fishing license that the expiration date of it would be, would run 12 months from the date of purchase rather than from June 1, and they didn't comment. I just wondered if that was a mistake in the paper or which really I think is a good thing, run 12 months, rather than expire on a certain date, and go 12 months from the date of



purchase. Thank you.

MR. GILBERT: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is correct information. Would that be an enforcement problem? If you don't have them all expiring on the same date?

MR. YANCEY: The reason that came up was that under the present system of issuing sport fishing licenses, they expire on June 30, right in the middle of the summer fishing period. Some of the Senators felt that it would be better for the fishermen themselves if these licenses would run through the calendar year. That is basically what they were aiming at, I think, was to try to change the period of time that the licenses are valid so they will expire in the winter rather than the middle of the summer. A lot of people forget to go get a new license on July 1, and that is where the problems come in.

That change would be desirable and the committee was told that we would look into it to see if we could handle it administratively so that they would expire at the end of the calendar year, in the winter, rather than in the middle of the



fishing season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Ladies and gentlemen, the hearing that we are going to hold in a few minutes will be limited to seasons and bag limits, and so at this time if any of you have any other recommendations, gripes, praises, commendations perhaps, on anything, like the current issue on monofilament gill net, or anything else that you would like to speak on, let's do it now.

Yes, sir.

MR. A. G. "IKE" KIRKIKIS: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I am Ike Kirkikis from Webster Parish. I have what I guess is a commendation for the Commission's law enforcement. We are extremely proud of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries going to Lake Bistineau and doing what they did do with the netting, illegal netting and illegal selling of game fish. As a result of this law enforcement conservation measure, we have got some input from different bass clubs, Webster Wild Life and Sportsmen's Club, our two Lion's Clubs have passed resolutions, and this in turn had us to pass a resolution concurring with their thinking.



If I may, I shall read the resolution in the further conservation measure for Lake Bistineau for this Commission to consider:

"WHEREAS, it has been called to the attention of the Webster Parish Police July that illegal netting is ever increasing on Lake Bistineau, and

"WHEREAS, because of said netting catchable game fish has been reduced to a low level,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Webster Parish Police July in regular session convened May 13, 1977 hereby urges the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to exercise what legal force it has to discontinue all netting and trapping of fish in Lake Bistineau for a period of two years and during this period they work to restock said Lake, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission allows netting on Lake Bistineau,



it be by permit only, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be mailed to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Webster Parish Legislative Delegation, and the Police Juries of Bossier and Bienville Parishes,"

which you gentlemen, of course, now that Lake Bistineau incorporates three parishes, Webster, Bienville and Bossier Parishes.

"The above resolution was adopted by the Webster Parish Police July in regular session convened May 3, 1977 on motion of A. G. "Ike" Kirkikis, seconded by Ralph Rentz, and carried."

I will give copies of this resolution to the Commission for your all's consideration. It has been our policy in the past four or five years to improve the fish population. I believe you have a biologist up there now that is doing an excellent job and we are extremely proud of it. With the illegal netting that we have had and the illegal selling of game fish, we want to carry it one step



further. Now I am urging that the Commission take it under consideration so you all can come up with something concrete for possibly the next session.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We certainly appreciate your coming by and giving this. I am sorry that your comments were not heard by our Lake Bistineau expert, our vice chairman, Mr. Don Wille. We have word that Mr. Wille is on his way. He is driving from Bossier City and he is on his way and probably will be here very shortly, within the time of the next portion of our meeting.

You had something else?

MR. KIRKIKIS: Yes, well, one more comment on Lake Bistineau. We have an expert here, Mr. McDonald, that has been our parish lake commission before we of the Webster Parish Police Jury turned it over to the state, and he probably would like to make a comment later on.

One more comment that concerns conservation would be, in your game management area of the Kisatchie National Forest, we have extreme problems in that area of night hunting of big game, and we would like to ask for the consideration of,



if possible, a curfew of the federal roads and some parish roads by closing these roads at night, if it is possible. This is where they are killing. I don't know if Bob Kimball will concur in this. I mentioned to him before about it, but we need a curfew to stop the illegal hunting.

I am chairman of the wildlife committee in Webster Parish in the State Police Jury Association of the Wild Life and Fisheries, and this is one of the major problems that we have, killing of our big game out of season.

Now we have had many meetings with our district attorney, and we have two game law enforcementments hired by the parish, and we have of course our state unit that is doing an excellent job, but our district attorney, after a long discussion with our agents at a meeting, the only way he would prosecute anybody is by having movies taken of the actual kill, and you know that is practically an impossibility. I know you laugh about it but this is true, the documented truth, and we are upset about it.

You know, you tell somebody not to do



something, especially a little kid reaching for some cake or something nice, and he keeps on doing it, and it is going to be one of two things, either you are going to have to slap the hell out of him or take the cake away from him or both, so that is what we are asking. Close some of these roads out and if you are not going to slap him, don't let him get to it.

Thank you so much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I am wondering if you might not have more of a problem with your district attorney than you do with the enforcement problem.

(Laughter)

Ladies and gentlemen, are there any other of you who would like to make comments at this time on anything other than the seasons and bag limits.

MR. LUTTRELL: I would like to advise the gentleman, you know district attorneys are dispensable and you could get a new one!

FROM THE FLOOR: Ladies and gentlemen, I am the president of North Louisiana Fur Takers. Over the years, you know, we talk about our game



wardens. Our teachers want a pay raise, and all this. Well, I have checked, talked with some of the game wardens about their pay.

MR. LAPEYRE: Would you state your name, please.

MR. BILLY RAY SHIRLEY: Billy Ray Shirley. You know, they ask for a way to raise funds to give these raises. Well, I have looked at the Louisiana fur tax and it is kind of silly. I think that our game wardens deserve a raise. Gentlemen, when you send a man out there to enforce the law, he is going after the outlaw that is hunting it. That man has a gun, you know he has a gun, so he is facing a pretty rough thing. I talked to our biologist and I missed his salary about 12, \$15,000, what I figured he made. I make more working for Olinkraft.

I would like to recommend to the committee that we revise the Louisiana state fur tax and use this money, try to get a stipulation to use this money to pay our enforcement people and our Commission people a decent salary, because, gentlemen, these people should be on food stamps.



(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We certainly agree with you. Is Ted O'Neil here? Ted, would you tell us a little bit about the fur tax?

MR. TED O'NEIL: Well, the gentleman is absolutely correct. Some of the fur tax has been the same for a number of years, but we will have a long road to hoe to change this and I will have to admit that now, that it is going to be very difficult to up the fur tax for no particular set reason other than just salaries. I would rather go further into this meeting before we discuss that sort of thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is the tax presently a percentage of the cost of the pelt?

MR. O'NEIL: It is not. The tax has fluctuated so much in the past years; when coons were worth 25 or 50 cents, it was just a penny, just enough to keep up with the production of the animal. Now that the fur value has increased so much, the tax does look kind of out of line, but the fur market fluctuates, and so we pass a heavy



tax now or even consider doubling or raising the tax, and then the market breaks, and then you have a hard time collecting this tax. The way we keep up with our total catch and our production is through the severance tax.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am looking at the statute that provides for the severance tax and this, of course, is fixed by the legislature. The last amendment was in 1970 and it provides for a one-cent, one penny, on each skin, on muskrat, possum, skunk, beaver, bobtail cat, bobcat, fox, coyote and raccoon, only one penny, and then ten cents on mink, two cents on nutria, 25 cents on otter, 25 cents on alligators.

It could be that that severance tax rate could stand the scrutiny of a little bit of revision.

MR. O'NEIL: Well, I agree with you, but the one cent was placed on muskrats, Marc, back when rats would sell for 45 and 50 cents. Then, of course, the severance tax on the bobcats and wildcats, you know what has happened to bobcat furs recently, how it has skyrocketed due to the



promotional work that has been done on spotted cats, and on the fox, and those wildcats sold for only 50 cents for years and years and years, and that was when that tax was set.

We are sure that a market can be maintained at this level of, say, \$60 for a bobcat and \$30 for a fox. It is time possibly to go up on the tax some. So you have to make a real study of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: We certainly will and we thank you very much, Ted, and thank you for bringing it to our attention.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, the gentleman alluded to the fact that this money perhaps could be earmarked for the raise in salary of agents and biologists and so forth. I am much in favor of these raises, but we should point out to you that under the statutes in the State of Louisiana no money can be earmarked, and if we got the extra money you couldn't guarantee that it could be used for salaries. I just don't want someone to be disappointed when it goes into the general fund and perhaps can be used for other things.



MR. SHIRLEY: I still feel they need it.

MR. LUTTRELL: I do, too. I am with you on that, but I just wanted to clarify the fact that you couldn't earmark any money to go for specified salary raises and so forth.

MR. LAPEYRE: I would be curious to know if the gentleman has some specific ideas as to what the tax should be changed to.

MR. SHIRLEY: Just to give you an example, we held two fur sales this year. One of them we did excellent, beat the outside market about 30 percent, 33 to 40 percent on some species of game. Our last one, gentlemen, we got burned on it, but we learned.

On our fur tax on our muskrat we averaged \$4.50. There is no reason why we couldn't pay an extra penny; I feel it is coming out of the trapper's pocket, anyway. On your possum I could understand it. It's \$2, let your tax stay. Skunk, the same principle, \$2. Not many people like to skin them things, anyway. On your beaver, I feel the fur tax should be raised two cents. On your ring-tailed cat, which I have never caught one in this



area. On bobcat, I think it could stand a nine-cent raise. One penny, raise it nine cents. On your fox, the same principle, nine cents to ten cents. It is not going to kill anybody. It is not going to kill any man to pay this.

Like you say, the fur industry is a multi-million dollar industry in the State of Louisiana. In the last seven years the trappers have put into the economy of this state \$10 million a year paid to the trappers, on the average, so it is not going to kill anybody. Personally, I would even be willing to pay the tax myself if I could get it, like I say, for what I wanted, for the game wardens a decent raise.

All right, on your coyote, say a five-cent tax. It would not hurt them. Our coyotes at a fur sale averaged about \$27.50, at our last sale about \$20.

O. K., on raccoons, I say a three-cent tax. On your mink, I say leave it as it is. Mink hides are up some but I feel ten cents on a mink is a fair price. On otter and the other stuff it would be good.



Like I say, we have got a lot of out-dated laws. If we couldn't even use the money for a raise, maybe we could get a raise, but a lot of people don't realize what this would generate into the State. A rough estimate of probably 400 to \$500,000 a year is put into the State by trappers in taxes, so you figure the number of nutria pelts at two cents and all that. I have got some records. I haven't run it up to an exact figure on it, but I think we could generate enough money to pay our game wardens a decent raise, and I would like to challenge all the other sportsmen's organizations here to fight for this, because these people deserve it. They are out there protecting my rights and yours and let's face it, if we ask them to do the job, let's be willing to pay them something where they can make a decent living. I don't say he needs to drive a Lincoln Continental but I think he needs to have a decent enough salary that he can live on. When you look at your grocery bill at the end of the month and what you have got to go on, if you have got \$30 to stretch out over a two-week period till your next paycheck after you



pay your bill, that's not too nice.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.

Any other gentlemen would like to speak with regard to other matters? Yes, sir.

MR. ANTHONY J. DANNA: Mr. Chairman, Commission members, and ladies and gentlemen of this meeting today, I am Anthony J. Danna of Monroe, Louisiana. My purpose to be here is for the timber cutting that has been done on Russell Sage. I think it should be supervised better than it has been with a person personally there to see that it is cut as the trees are marked.

In the past, which we can show you, we can take you to Russell Sage and show you the trees that were marked weren't the ones cut altogether, and there were other trees that weren't marked and they were cut, and they were oak trees, trees bearing acorns, and they were cut, not spotted like they should be, they were cut cleanly where you could even put a house in some of the places that were cut out.

This is not good for squirrel hunting. It may be good for deer hunting. I am a deer.



hunter, too, and I am a squirrel hunter, too, and I think these people that like to squirrel hunt -- we have some old people that still like to squirrel hunt -- and when they continue to cut the trees, if they are cutting them like they have, there won't be any place for people to squirrel hunt.

You have briar thickets and thorn tickets and wild shrubbery in there where you can't get to the tree where the squirrel is, and you can be seen before you get on the shrubbery.

Now if you don't believe what I am saying, we will be glad to take you down and show you what has happened right here in Russell Sage. We are not against tree-cutting. The ash trees, soft elm and thorn trees, we think that should be cut, but as far as the hardwood oak and elm, bitter pecan and hackberry trees, I don't think they should be cut at all, because there is little timber left in Russell Sage, and this is the only place most of the people in this part of the area of all of northeast Louisiana has to hunt in.

If they continue to cut the trees like they have in the past through this bidding without



supervision of the trees, we will not have any trees for squirrel hunting at all. This should be looked into thoroughly.

Remember my word. I am not against tree-cutting but the way it has been done in the past should be stopped and supervised better. I have a lot of people that are backing me up on this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

(At this point Commission Vice-Chairman Donald F. Wille arrived and joined the meeting.)

MR. DANNA: Could I bring up another subject?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. WILLE: Sir, I am a late comer to the meeting. I am Don Wille from Bossier City.

THE CHAIRMAN: Don, I didn't see you come in.

MR. WILLE: That's all right. I would just like to say on this that I was up for the cutting that we had in Russell Sage and there were some other Commission members. Mr. Berry was there, I believe, and Jimmie Thompson. Mr. Palermo



is the forestry man in Wild Life and Fisheries here and as far as we could determine, throughout the whole project it was supervised and well supervised. Now I realize that if you go out there and you see some trees that have been removed and maybe some trees that were marked that were not removed, it was because of a later decision by Mr. Palermo not to remove these trees.

The cutting, I can assure you, was completely controlled and supervised by Wild Life and Fisheries and I am sure, in fact, the only reason we made the cutting up there was to thin out some areas so that we could have some browse for deer, and this is the whole purpose of the project. We didn't sell that timber. In fact, I don't think we made anything on it. I think we had to pay somebody to go in there and cut them.

This situation is going to improve the hunting out there, so I think if you double-check and if you check with Mr. Palermo you will find that no trees that we felt were necessary to wild-life habitat were taken out of there.

MR. DANNA: Sir, I differ with you,



because I did go down with Ray Palermo and we did show, and Mr. Berry himself was really upset when he saw what had happened down there, when we took him. You see, there is a different way of going. They can show you where the trees are cut where it looks so good. Well, you go to the spots I am talking about, which we can gladly show you, we can show you where the trees have been cut and cleared where you can set a building there without any bother at all.

Now I will guarantee you I can show you two spots myself and I don't have to go to the furthestest spot. Then where they cut the bitter pecan by the bayou three years ago, you can't even get in there with a bulldozer today to hunt. We can show you. Mr. Cleo Moore and I will be glad to take you down anytime you are willing and want to go down, we can show you what our problem is.

Now this supervised cutting last year, we took Mr. Berry there and we showed him pin oaks trees that were cut that weren't marked. I mean big trees, over 18 inches, that had been cut and wasn't marked to be cut, and Ray Palermo couldn't



explain it all, right there to Mr. Berry he couldn't explain it.

MR. WILLE: Well, then we will look into it. That is all I can tell you.

MR. DANNA: Fine, that's what we want the Commission to do.

MR. WILLE: And I can assure you that the supervision of the tree cutting will continue and will be done right.

MR. DANNA: We appreciate it and we will be happy to work with you people. We want some trees cut out; just like you said, they need to be thinned in spots, but not like they have been cut, and I think the time has come to supervise it better than it has been done, sir. We appreciate it.

MR. WILLE: Thank you. We appreciate your input.

MR. DANNA: All right, could I mention something else? You know, they say they have a big deer herd here and they have been shooting doe every year, two days. Well, the deer season last year I never fired a shot. Now I am in favor, and



I have a lot of sportsmen behind me, every one of the wildlife clubs here in Monroe, here in this area, are against doe hunting. They wish we could get this deer season where we can have doe hunting once every three years, one day, and open every area at the same time so our herd can be saved.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you save those comments for the next hearing that we are going to have on the seasons and bag limits, please.

MR. DANNA: Fine. Thank you very much. I appreciate you all listening to me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Mr. McDonald I believe wanted to say something. Ray.

MR. RAY PALERMO: I would like to comment on the man's statement.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. McDonald, just a second. Let me call on Mr. Ray Palermo, if you will, for a comment.

MR. PALERMO: I am Ray Palermo, the man that Mr. Danna was talking about, and I would like to tell you people what we actually cut on this 500 acres, this thinning job we had on Russell



Sage.

First of all, this is a study we have going on out there now, and it is going to run for ten years, and I am sure it will bring to light exactly what we have been saying all along about this timber stand improvement work which we are doing on Russell Sage and hope to do on all the areas that we own.

In the uncut portion of Russell Sage, that is the area where we haven't cut a tree -- now I am going on an acre basis -- it is about 105 trees, that is trees six inches and larger. Of these 105 trees per acre, 45 of these are oaks, 60 are other trees, which we call more or less trash species as far as wildlife is concerned, rock elm, soft elm, bitter pecan, ash. Most of this stuff is ash I am talking about.

On the thinned area we have about 72 trees per acre left. That is after the cutting is complete. Of these 72, 41 are oaks. In other words, there are only four or five oak trees cut per acre, and these are defective trees, with holes in them, all broken and crooked, something



that will never amount to anything, and we have 31 of the trash trees left.

In other words, what we have done, we have cut about half of the trash trees out of each acre. We have gone from 60 to 30. On the oaks we have cut four or five trash oaks that are there, or one crowding another. This is what it amounts to, and if anybody doubts what I am talking about here, I would be happy to accommodate any of you and all of you out there and just show you what is out there. I can show you deer signs, I can show you squirrel signs, much, much more inside the cut area as opposed to the uncut area.

I don't know why Mr. Danna didn't kill a deer out there last year because there are deer signs all over the place!

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ray. Let's not get into a debate at the moment over the timber-cutting problem.

Mr. McDonald I believe had some comments and then another gentleman in the audience.

MR. McDONALD: Mr. Chairman and the rest of the Commission, I am glad that Mr. Wille is here.



what I am about to say is not on your game setting but I do want to compliment you on the work that the enforcement agents did on Bistineau recently, and we need to keep it up. They just got started. Illegal fishing is a big business, and it is so big that in one place, one game warden was offered \$50,000 to keep his mouth shut and let a man illegally fish one lake.

Now, I write a little fishing column for the paper and I get these news releases from Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi, and that was in the last Texas publication, like our Louisiana CONSERVATIONIST.

This illegal fishing is not easy to stop because a game warden on a lake such as Bistineau, which is 17 miles long and in places it two, three, four miles wide, and it is covered with cypress in most of the places, and it is utterly impossible to police that lake like it should be policed, and it is a problem.

Now we have recommended, as Ike has said, and every bass club around there has recommended, that we stop netting on Bistineau for a period of



two years or more and then start back on a permit basis only. Whether that would stop it or not, I don't know, but anyway I wish that the Commission would begin to think about the weed control again on Bistineau, because it has been my opinion, and it is not only my opinion; it is other people's opinion, that we have not done the fluctuation on Bistineau at the right time.

Now I am going to tell you, I have been fishing that lake for over 50 years and as long as the dam was lower, four feet lower than it is right now, we had no moss problems. We might have had no moss problem then at all. This stuff might have blown in here, I don't know, but anyway I wish you would think about repairing the dam on Bistineau, because it is going to have to be done anyhow pretty quick. The gates are rotting out and also take into consideration the fact if we have it two feet lower, Loggy Bayou every year rises enough that if we had that dam two feet lower, the thing fixed two feet lower than the spillway, that we could have an influx of new fish every time Loggy Bayou got up higher or Red River gets



up high, which it does every spring, nearly every spring, at the right time.

I would like for you to consider lowering or fluctuating the water if the biologists recommend it this year, which I think they will, because it is worse now than it ever has been, a little earlier so the lake can dry out before the fall rains start in.

Now we lowered it three or four years ago, began lowering it in September. Well, it didn't get down until about the first of October. October came and it began to rain. It never did dry out enough for the ground to crack open or the moss to sprout out again, I will put it that way. If you have a little dry weather and the ground dries and then you get a rain, that moss will start up and then dry out again, and it will kill that moss.

Bistineau is a problem. It can't be solved in a minute, and it belongs to the State of Louisiana now. It always has belonged to the State of Louisiana, and I hope that our wildlife people in the State will back up what the biologists



recommend for the lake on Bistineau. If we don't, it is one of the best lakes in the country, it is a natural lake, and it is fed by 100 and some-odd miles of good fishing water, and I do hope that someday maybe those striped bass will become acclimated to this country and spawn again.

But we might take into consideration this thing. If we keep that thing down where it will get a new influx of water in there every year it might help the moss situation as well as the fish population, and this is not on the game business.

Thank you very much, and I will see you later.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. McDonald. The Commission has always taken the recommendations of our biologists and our studies are continuing and ongoing. Our expert, Mr. Wille wants to make a comment on this, too.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Wille doesn't pretend to be an expert on Lake Bistineau, I don't think anybody is, but, Pop, I am certainly glad that you did come up here. We are glad for your input. We



do have a request in to the Department of Public Works right now to redo the dam. I am sure that when we do we will be contacting you and asking your advice on it, to be truthful about it.

I agree with you, when the lake was four feet lower the fishing was much better and we never had a moss problem because Red River backed up into it every year and put that nice muddy water in there which kept the moss from propagating in the lake. This is being done in the very near future. I don't know when we are going to be able to get funds to do this, but as soon as we do, I am sure that there will be a new dam constructed down there. That is why we haven't done anything with the locks at the present time. We are just using a manual method to raise and lower them.

We will go with the biologists' recommendations, whatever they might be. We did have a real good year last year because of the fact that we had the good cold snap and it was dry, and that was the reason that the decision was made not to lower it. As hard as the winter was, I kind of wish that we had made the decision to lower it,



anyway, despite what the biologists have said.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Don.

Ladies and gentlemen, after this gentleman makes his comments, we will go into a five-minute recess. Please stay and hold still for another minute. Go ahead, sir.

MR. VIRGIL DOLLAR: Thank you, sir. My name is Virgil Dollar. I am here from Monroe and I won't take but just a minute and I will let you get that recess.

It has been my privilege for the last few years to work in our Ducks Unlimited organization in North Louisiana. Most recently I served as sponsor committee chairman for our Monroe chapter. Recently at the state meeting in New Orleans I was elected a vice-chairman of our Area II and at a subsequent meeting of that council was elected state secretary.

More recent than that, I had the good privilege of attending our national convention in San Francisco, and had the pleasure of being there when Commissioner Clay Luttrell made the final \$14,000 contribution from the State of Louisiana



that brought the total, as you well know, to a \$164,000 contribution by the State of Louisiana and the Wildlife Commission to Ducks Unlimited.

The only comment that I would like to tell you is thank you very much. We appreciate it. We are delighted that you could come to Monroe and have your hearing, and we hope that your stay is enjoyable. The \$164,000 contribution put the State of Louisiana in the five categories that all states are judged, Louisiana, in four out of the five, was in the top ten. We were third in the nation for total money. We were fourth in the nation in increase from last year, and as Clay will tell you, all of us that was in San Francisco had us a big red button on that said we were No. 1 in sponsor memberships for 1976. There is nobody going to touch us, with your help and your contributions and the guidance of the Dick Yanceys, the Joe Herrings, all your biologists and everything. There is no way anybody is going to stop us.

Four out of five is not bad, gentlemen, and we thank you for your help and we are glad you have come to Monroe. Thank you so much.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Dollar, I need to make an explanation because some of these boys sitting right here, looking straight at me, I also had a \$50,000 check, and they are going to wonder what happened to it!

(Laughter)

I want to say Mr. Dollar and I had some fun out there but we didn't spend that \$50,000 check. But I want to explain one other thing.

We are going to stay first in this nation in sponsorships because of devious methods developed by ingenious politicians from Louisiana. This actually happened. One of our national trustees was going to have a grandchild. Now at the time this became known, we didn't know whether it was going to be a granddaughter or a grandson. Yes, Jessie Fontenot.

The idea was this. If it was a granddaughter, the minute it was born we would get a call from his hometown that the child had been born, and if it was a granddaughter, he was going to have to make her a member, which is a \$20 fee.



Now, if it was a grandson, he had to make him a sponsor, which is a \$200 fee.

Well, the call came in at 11 o'clock and Jessie was a grandfather of a grandson. Five minutes later he called our boy over in Mississippi and said, "Put him down as a sponsor. I will give you the \$200 check in the morning."

The man said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Fontenot. What name will I use?"

He said, "Hell, what name! He is only five minutes old!"

Now when you can sell sponsorships at the age of five minutes old, nobody is ever going to touch the State of Louisiana.

Then the thing went a little further. The next morning, I said, "Jessie, what kind of gun are you going to recommend that grandson of yours shoot?"

He said, "Oh, I never thought about that. I will attend to it right now."

He called Houma and said, "Send over to my grandson's house an over/under 20-gauge Browning this morning!"



So, as long as you have got that kind of people to create that type of situation, the kind of men that Jessie Fontenot happens to be, no state is going to have more sponsors than the State of Louisiana, and I don't care how big they are. They just don't have the know-how!

MR. DOLLAR: One other thing and, Mr. Chairman, excuse me, I have just been handed a little note that the State of Louisiana's total contribution to this has exceeded over \$2 million. The closest state to us in that category, is California with \$300,000. Thank you so much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Dollar. It is a pleasure to end this portion of our meeting on a happy note.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to take a five-minute recess and then begin our hearings, and if you have not signed a speaker's slip, please do so. Thank you.

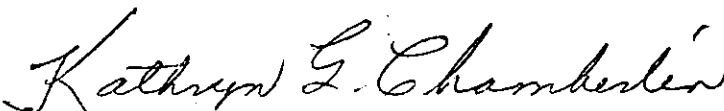
. . . . Whereupon, the regular
Board meeting of the Commission
was adjourned. . . .



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (76 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape records of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 15th day of June, 1977.


Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

